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RURAL AREAS
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NEWSLETTER

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GRANGE MASTER SAYS EXPAND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN RURAL AREAS

Herschel D. Newsom, Master of the National Grange, urges that all future expansion of government agencies be directed into rural areas to generate jobs, create new rural economic opportunities, and slow the rural-to-urban migration of people seeking jobs.

He called for "immediate suspension of further expansion of government facilities in overcrowded, congested cities."

Mr. Newsom's suggestions came in response to a challenge by Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman: "The Grange can and should, in its own interest, accept a leadership role" in revitalizing rural America.

SURVEY SHOWS THEY WOULD RETURN

A survey conducted in Utah shows that persons who have had to leave small towns and home States for jobs would return if equal challenge and salaries were made available.

More than 4,000 Utah college graduates who had left answered "yes" when asked if they would "return to Utah to work providing the salary and opportunities are equal to your present position."

POPULATION DROP SPURS TOWN ACTION

Citizens in Hampton, Iowa, swung into action when they learned their county was losing people and opportunity.

Franklin County's Extension director went before local organizations and service clubs to tell them about the population decline and how it hurt the area.

The people decided to organize and act.

Now, a local manufacturer plans to expand and build a new \$1 million plant near Hampton. The Hampton Development Corporation plans to buy the present plant and use it to attract a new industry into the town.



The town and the Chamber of Commerce Development Corporation have applied for Federal and State money to build a new airport.

Local citizens are supporting a street improvement program, a new municipal swimming pool, a new elementary school, and complete renovation of the public library.

THEY OPENED THE DOOR TO MORE PROGRESS

The people of Shelby County, Alabama, opened the door to greater progress when they formed a Resource Development Committee in 1962.

Since then, the county's citizens have completed 35 projects and started many others. They have:

- *Helped bring in 33 new industries and expanded existing ones, adding 740 new jobs.

- *Increased service employment by 194 percent by construction of industries and service projects.

- *Started development of one of nine planned community water systems and a sewer system with Farmers Home Administration financial help.

- *Added a 35-bed nursing home and 53 new hospital beds with Federal and State help.

A county-wide sanitary garbage collection and disposal system is now serving 30 percent of the county's people.

Since 1962, the county has recorded the following other advances: per capita income, 10.7 percent; personal income, 15.9 percent; retail sales, 22.7 percent; and bank deposits, 58.1 percent.

"SOIL, WATER AND SUBURBIA"

Land developers, investors, planners, architects, engineers, scientists, and State, county and municipal leaders will join two Federal departments June 15-16 in Washington, D.C., to seek solutions to land and water management problems in suburbia development.



Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture, and Robert C. Weaver, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, will be on the opening program, "Land in Transition-- The Problems and the Opportunities."

The Secretaries, whose Departments are sponsoring the meeting, said the conference is "to cover all major phases of soil and water management in connection with land development, provide practical information for planners and developers, determine needs for additional research, and improve channels of communications with developers and others concerned with rural-urban fringe areas."

JOB CORPSMEN MAKE GAINS IN READING, MATH

The gain in average reading skill by Job Corpsmen during training is about 1.25 times the public school norm, and the gain in mathematics is about twice the public school expectancy, according to William P. Kelly, Director of the Job Corps.

Mr. Kelly said that during a nine-month stay in Job Corps, the young men and women gain about one and one-fourth grade levels in reading and two grade levels in mathematics.

He pointed out that "inasmuch as Job Corps entrants had progressed at about half their expected rate in school, the Job Corps gains represent a 250 percent improvement in reading and 400 percent in arithmetic."

WATER SYSTEM SUPPLIES FIVE FAMILIES--THEY BUILT IT

Five families in Heidelberg, Mississippi, built a small-scale water system, for \$260, that gave them running water in their homes and fields.

Jule McGill, head of one of the families, had never had running water in his home before. Wells in the area are extra deep, and expensive to install.

Mr. McGill and many of his neighbors had been getting water from open springs or branches.

They went together and got an Economic Opportunity loan from Farmers Home Administration. The Soil Conservation Service provided engineering help, and the local rural electrification cooperative ran in poles and wire to provide electricity for the water pump. Mr. McGill developed a spring, and he and his neighbors built the water system.



With water readily available, Mr. McGill improved his pasture, bought a registered herd bull, and, with Agricultural Conservation Program cost-sharing help, planted 16 acres of his 160-acre farm to bahiagrass.

NOW MORE PEOPLE MAY HELP

Tens of thousands of students, professional people, housewives, and neighborhood residents may now work 10 to 15 hours a week with low-income people near their campus or community.

They will be members of the Office of Economic Opportunity's new VISTA Citizens Corps of part-time volunteers.

Six planned pilot projects in Ohio, Oregon, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia will enlist about 8,000 volunteers. In these projects, six agencies and organizations will operate programs set up and coordinated by VISTA volunteers, who also will recruit the new volunteers.

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SIX FAMILIES HELP THEMSELVES, EACH OTHER

Frank Houston, his wife and six children have moved from a one-bedroom log cabin into a new three-bedroom home, with the help of a \$6,000 self-help housing loan.



The Houstons are one of six families in Macon County, North Carolina, who joined together in August 1966 and got Farmers Home Administration loans which helped them build their own homes. A Community Action Program grant paid for the supervision and planning of the self-help housing program, and the Farmers Home Administration loans were for building materials.

The six families worked together to help build each other's home. A professional supervisor planned the work, ordered materials, kept track of the exchange of labor, and laid out and helped with such things as wiring, plumbing, and heating.

Now, three other families plan to take part in the program.

TOURISM HAS BRIGHT FUTURE IN BLACK HILLS

The future of the tourist industry in the Black Hills Region "seems brighter than that of any other segment of the area's economy," according to a recently completed report on the natural resources potential of the region.

The report, "Black Hills Area Resources Study," was made by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. It evaluates the region's land, water, mineral, timber, fish and wildlife, and suggests how they can be conserved and used to the maximum benefit of the people and economy of the area.

So the people can capitalize on the tourism potential, the study task force recommended expanded water resource management to improve water quality, improved land management and the zoning of recreation areas to protect the region's recreational values, and establishment of a recreation advisory council to guide development of the region's recreation resource.